

REMARKS

Claims 11, 12, 14-16, and 19-33 and new claim 37 are pending in the present application.

Claims 1-10, 13, 17-18, and 34-36 have been canceled without prejudice. Claim 14 has been amended to recite that the second end of the wire is connected to the elongated member at a point more proximal than the first end of the wire. Support for this amendment is found at paragraph 0040. Claims 15, 16, 20, 22-28 and 32-33 have been amended to depend on claim 11. Claim 37, which depends on claim 19, has been added to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. It should be noted that claim 37 depends on claim 19, which the Examiner has found to be allowable. Neither new claim 37 or the amendments to the claims are believed to introduce any new matter.

CLAIM REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner has rejected claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Examiner has objected to the phrase “distal end” in claim 14 as indefinite.

Claim 14 has been amended to recite that the second end of the wire is connected to the elongated member at a point more proximal than the first end of the wire. Therefore, the rejection based on 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is obviated.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 10, 13, 15, 20-33 and 36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5, 693, 085 to Buirge *et al.* (“Buirge”). Claims 1-10, 13 and 36 have been canceled without prejudice. Also claims 15 and 20-33 have been amended to depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 11 which has been allowed by Examiner. Therefore, the rejection based on Buirge is believed to have been overcome.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner stated that Claim 14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 14 has been amended to include all of the limitations of the base claim. As such, allowance of Claim 14 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSIONS

Applicants respectfully submit that the above amendments and cancellations render Examiner's obvious rejection moot.

As all rejections are believed to be overcome, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect would be appreciated. Should the Examiner not agree with Applicant's position, then a personal telephonic interview is respectfully requested to discuss any remaining issues and expedite the eventual allowance of the application. No fees are believed to be due. If any such fees are due, please charge the required fees to Jones Day Deposit Account No. 50-3013.

Respectfully submitted,

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